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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/537,970	06/09/2005	Manabu Iwamoto	590157-2020	6933

7590 05/29/2008

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EXAMINER	
YAN, REN LUO	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2854	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
05/29/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/537,970	IWAMOTO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ren L. Yan	2854	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *02 May 2008*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *10,11,14,16 and 17* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) *16* is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *10,11,14 and 17* is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) *14* is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, claims 10, 11, 14 and 17 in the reply filed on 5-2-2008 is acknowledged.

Claim 14 is objected because it amounts to a double recitation of what has already been recited in its parent claim 10. Appropriate corrections are required.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 10, 11, 14 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 64-018683 in view of Suzuki(6,530,519).

The '683 patent teaches the structure of a stencil making system where stencil material unrolled from a stencil material roll is perforated and cut to make a plurality of kinds of stencils having different lengths, which system including the use of variable sizes or kinds of stencil print drums which conform to respective lengths of a plurality of stencils and around which stencils conforming to the respective printing drums in length are wound, wherein storage means (sensor 18 on the print drum unit 17) including a plurality of storage portions 18 each of which is provided on each of the printing drums to store the length of the stencil to be wound around the printing drum, namely, A3 drum unit corresponding to a stencil cut length 530mm and A4 drum corresponding to a stencil cut length 320mm, drum unit sensing means 40 for communicating

with the storage means 18 for determining the kind of stencil print drum mounted on the print drum support and thus the length of the stencil needs to be cut and conveyed during the printing operation, and a controller 41 for controlling the conveying and cutting of the stencil based on the kind of print drum is mounted in the system at any given time. See the abstract and Figs. 1-8 in '683 patent for details.

However, the '683 patent does not teach to monitor the residue amount of the stencil on the stencil roll by calculating the stencil material roll residue in the stencil making system through cumulatively subtracting the lengths of the stencils used from the total length of the stencil material roll stored in the first storage means.

Suzuki teaches in a stencil printer of a similar type the conventionality of providing a stencil roll 4 with memory ICs 7 and 71 as a first storage means which stores a total length of the stencil material roll before use, and a residue calculating means which calculates a stencil material roll residue in the stencil making system by reading out from the second storage means (the kind of print drum is known to the controller of the stencil printer) the lengths of the stencils which have been made and cumulatively subtracting the lengths of the stencils used from the total length of the stencil material roll stored in the first storage means. See Figs. 1-4, cl. 2, lines 58-65, cl. 4, lines 55-67, and cl. 9, line 45 through cl. line 25 in Suzuki for example.

From the teaching of the prior art, one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that by knowing the actual length of the stencil material that is required for each kind of print drum and such length of stencil material has been cut and mounted on the print drum, this length of stencil material can be subtracted from the stencil master roll and the residue of the stencil master roll can thus be accurately calculated and displayed to inform the operator of the stencil

making system. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to provide the stencil making system of the '683 patent with the first storage means on the stencil roll for storing a total length of the stencil material roll before use and a residue calculating means appropriately disposed to work with the controller of the stencil making system for calculating the residue amount of stencil remaining in the stencil roll by cumulatively subtracting the lengths of the stencils used by each of the print drum from the total length of the stencil material roll stored in the first storage means in order to achieve the predictable result of controlling the stencil master roll replacement timing and improving the working efficiency of the stencil making system.

Applicant's arguments filed on 12-10-2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argued that the '683 patent discloses only providing the type of the printing drum on the printing drum and does not disclose providing the length of the stencil on the printing drum. Therefore, the '683 patent can only obtain the length of the stencil which is wound around the printing drum, the type of which has been set in advance. According to the present invention recited in the amended claim 10, even if the type of printing drum has not been set in advance, it is possible to obtain the length of the stencil which is wound around the printing drum and to calculate the stencil material roll residue appropriately. This argument is not persuasive and not reflected in the pending claims. The magnet 18 of the '683 patent represents the type of the printing drum and thus the length of the stencil required to be mounted on the printing drum. Accordingly, the magnet 18 does represent a storage means that stores the length of the stencil that is to be mounted on the printing drum. Since each printing drum(sizes A3 or A4) has its magnet 18 mounted thereon at its particular location on the printing drum to

communicate with the sensor of the stencil making system to inform the controller of the stencil making system the length of the stencil needs to be cut and mounted on the printing drum, the magnet 18 functions exactly the same way as presently recited in the pending claims. It is the position of the Examiner that the second storage means as recited in claim 10 has not in any way structurally and functionally distinguished itself from the magnet 18 of the '683 patent.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ren L. Yan whose telephone number is 571-272-2173. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ren L Yan/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2854
May 26, 2008